

# DISCIPLINE, DISCIPLINED, DISCIPLINES, DISCIPLINING

Elihu said that God opens the ear of the righteous to **discipline**. (In other words, God rebukes the righteous when they sin so they'll repent.)

- **Job 36:10:** "He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity."

**Disciplining** your child is an act of love.

- **Proverbs 13:24:** "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Children need to be **disciplined**. It's a terrible thing to refuse to discipline your own child.

- **Proverbs 13:24:** "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

There's a time when it's not too late to **discipline** a child, and it will make a difference in their life. (There's also a time when it actually is too late.)

- **Proverbs 19:18:** "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

It's bad to be too soft-hearted to **discipline** your children. This harms the child (because they need discipline).

- **Proverbs 19:18:** "Chasten thy son while there is hope,

and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

- **Proverbs 23:13:** "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die."

Children aren't automatically saved. Their soul is in danger of hell. However, **discipline** can play a role in saving them (by guiding them away from that which is evil, and toward that which is good).

- **Proverbs 23:14:** "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

God said that physical **discipline** should be used to correct people (including adults). There are certain situations where it's effective.

- **Proverbs 26:3:** "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back."

Some people won't abandon their folly, even if physical **discipline** is used. (Physical discipline works in some situations but not others.)

- **Proverbs 27:22:** "Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him."

Those who are left to their own devices, and are never reproofed or **disciplined**, never learn wisdom (and bring shame to their parents).

- **Proverbs 29:15:** "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a

child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

The soldiers in the terrible army that Joel describes in his prophecy are strong, agile, and very **disciplined**. They act in superhuman ways. (It seems this army will wage war during the tribulation era.)

- **Joel 2:1, 7-8:** "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; ... They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded."

The first instance of church **discipline** in the early church wasn't for sexual immorality. Instead it was for lying.

- **Acts 5:3-5:** "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things."

Since we're all God's servants, we must not judge one another. God is the one who will judge us, because He's the one we're serving. (This seems to be addressing matters of personal

conviction, as opposed to gross immorality that requires church **discipline**.)

- **Romans 14:4:** "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."

There may be times when God chastens us as an act of **discipline**. However, our destiny is to live forever with Him, not to die and be dead forever.

- **2 Corinthians 6:9:** "As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;"

The church shouldn't **discipline** an elder on the basis of an accusation made by a single person, which has no other evidence to support it except the word of that one person.

- **1 Timothy 5:19:** "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."

Churches must not **discipline** elders privately. Instead they must rebuke them publicly, before the entire congregation.

- **1 Timothy 5:19-20:** "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

Christians must not speak evil of one another. (This is different from rebuking sin, or **disciplining** church members who are living in sin. For example, the letter that James wrote is full of rebukes but it's not evil.)

- **James 4:11:** "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge."